

09年12月英语四级考试全真预测试题四(文都)英语四级考试

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测试卷 Model Test Three Part I Writing (30 minutes) Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic Competition. You should write at least 120 words following the outline given below in Chinese: 1. 竞争使人们充满创造力，使人们更有效率。 2. 竞争促使生产出更好的产品和提供更优质的服务。 3. 竞争促进了社会的进一步发展。 Competition Part

II Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning) (15 minutes)

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer Sheet 1. For questions 1-7, mark Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage. N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage. NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage。 For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage。 Earthquake Can Scientists Predict Killer Earthquakes? The date was November 23, 1980. People near Naples, in southern Italy, felt the Earth roll and shake. Earthquake! Suddenly buildings came tumbling down. Cracks appeared in the earth. Within minutes, entire towns were destroyed. Thousands of people were dead. Thousands more were injured。 As rescuers searched through the rubble, many people must have wondered, of only the victims had known ahead of time, many lives could have been saved。 Actually,

an Italian scientist did predict that such a quake would happen. In 1977 Dr. M. Caputo of the Universite Degiles Studi in Rome warned that a large quake would soon strike the east of Naples.

Unfortunately, he couldn't predict the exact time and date of the quake. Dr. Caputo made his general prediction after talking with scientists at 54 earthquake monitoring stations throughout Italy. He learned that many earthquakes had recently rocked different areas around Naples. But none had occurred in one particular spot east of Naples for many years. Dr. Caputo felt that the area was long overdue for a large quake. And it was. Earthquake Strikes in Gap

The quake occurred in a region that Dr. Caputo called a seismic gap. A seismic gap is an area in an active earthquake region where no earthquake or seismic activity has been recorded in a long time. Seismic gaps are located where two large plates in the Earth have become stuck. When the plates slide past each other, they sometimes became locked in place. A similar thing happens when you make a running leap on a sidewalk while wearing sneakers. When you land on both feet, the sneakers grab onto rough surface. Friction tends to hold your feet back while the rest of your body goes forward. You may end up falling flat on your face. In the case of plates, however, the uneven surfaces between the plates cause the plates to remain locked in place for years. Huge pressure builds up behind each plate. Periodically, a shudder, or tremor, is recorded as some of this energy is released. Finally, after about 50 years, rock in the seismic gap either suddenly breaks or moves under the great stress. This sudden release of energy sends shock waves through the

rock layers above. The ground shakes, sidewalks crack, and buildings tumble. A mighty quake has struck.

### Gaps Used To Predict Quakes

Many geologists have used what is called the seismic gap technique to accurately predict earthquakes. The technique was first developed by Soviet earthquake expert Dr. V. Fodotov during his studies of ancient and recent Japanese earthquakes. Dr. Fodotov was marking the location, size, and date of all known quakes in Japan when he noticed a striking pattern. All major earthquakes were found to occur in only a few isolated spots in Japan. Each of these spots, he noted, experienced a major quake only once every 50 to 60 years. Dr. Fodotov concluded that spots that hadn't had a quake in more than 50 years were "ripe" for a quake. The Russian scientist named these locations seismic gaps. In the past several years, geologists from other countries have found seismic gaps in other parts of the world. After making detailed studies of past quakes in these regions, the geologists were able to make an accurate prediction of when a quake would occur.

### How Do Animals Know When an Earthquake Is Coming?

Scientists who try to predict earthquakes have gotten some new helpers recently—animals. That's right, animals. Scientists have begun to catch on to what farmers have known for thousands of years. Animals often seem to know in advance that an earthquake is coming, and they show their fear by acting in strange ways. Before a Chinese quake in 1975, snakes awoke from their winter sleep early only to freeze to death in the cold air. Cows broke their halters and tried to escape. Chickens refused to enter their coop. All of this unusual behavior, as well as physical changes in the

earth, alerted Chinese scientists to the coming quake. They moved people away from the danger zone and saved thousands of lives. One task for scientists today is to learn exactly which types of animal behavior predict quakes. It ' s not an easy job. First of all not every animal reacts to the danger of an earthquake. Just before a California quake in 1977, for example, an Arabian stallion became very nervous and tried to break out of his stall. The horse next to him, however, remained perfectly calm. It ' s also difficult at times to tell the difference between normal animal restlessness and “ earthquake nerves ” . A zoo keeper once called earthquake researchers to say that his cougar had been acting strangely. It turned out that the cat had an upset stomach. A second task for scientists is to find out exactly what kind of warnings the animals receive. They know that animals sense far more of the world than humans do. Many animals can see, hear, and smell things that people do not even notice. Some can detect tiny changes in air pressure, gravity, or the magnetism of Earth. This extra sense probably helps animals predict quakes. A good example of this occurred with a group of dogs. They were penned up in an area that was being shaken by a series of tiny earthquakes. (Several small quakes often come before or after a large one. ) Before each quake a low booming sound was heard. Each boom caused the dogs to bark wildly. Then the dogs began to bark during a silent period. A scientist who was recording tile quakes looked at his machine. It was acting as though there were a loud noise too. The scientist realized that the dogs had reacted to a booming noise. They also sensed the tiny quake that followed it. The

machine recorded both, though humans felt and heard nothing. In this case there was a machine to monitor what the dogs were sensing. Many times, however, our machines record nothing out of the ordinary, even though animals know a quake is coming. The animals might be sensing something we so measure but do not recognize as a warning. Discovering what animals sense, and learning how they know it is a danger signal, is a job for future scientists.

1. Since no one had predicted the precise date of the earthquake striking east of Naples, people there suffered heavy loss in the destruction.
2. A seismic gap is located at the junction of two interlocking plates in the Earth, and where no seismic activity has been recorded for a long time.
3. From the passage we learn that a regular striking pattern can be found in an active earthquake region.
4. During an earthquake in China 1975, cows broke their halters and ran away from their sheds.
5. As it is used in Paragraph 13, the word “ cat ” refers to a typical domestic cat.
6. All animals but men can notice tiny changes in air pressure, gravity, or the magnetism of Earth.
7. The dogs mentioned in Paragraph 15 had sensed both the low booms and the minor quakes following them.

1. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
2. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
3. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
4. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
5. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
6. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
7. [ Y ] [ N ] [ NG ]
8. Dr. Caputo based his prediction upon the fact that lots of earthquakes had recently occurred in all areas around Naples but its\_\_\_\_\_.
9. According to the author ’ s information, every 50 years or so, a mighty earthquake will be recorded at\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Chinese scientists evacuated people

from\_\_\_\_\_after they had noticed the strange behavior of some animals as well as physical changes in the earth。 100Test 下载  
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